

Message Text

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50/53

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-02 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 PPT-01 SY-04 SCCT-01 /033 W

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O R 111530Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1935

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPH TWO; LAST SENTENCE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, YO (BENTLEY, GLORIA L. AND WATERMAN, ANN J.

SUBJ: AMCITS DETAINED, FACE CHARGES

SUMMARY: TWO AMERICAN WOMEN HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN
NOVI SAD AND MAY WELL FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR
SMUGGLING HOSTILE PROPAGANDA INTO YUGOSLAVIA.
CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST ANTICIPATED. END SUMMARY

1. AMCIT GLORIA L. BENTLEY WHO RESIDES AT 536 NO.
CENTRAL, HIGHWOOD, ILL., TELEPHONED EMB FROM HOTEL
PUTNIK IN NOVI SAD FEB 11 TO REPORT THAT LOCAL
POLICE WERE HOLDING HER PASSPORT AND PASSPORT OF
AMCIT TRAVELLING COMPANION ANN WATERMAN, 334 BUTTERFIELD
ST., SAN ANSELMO, CALIF. BOTH HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED
TO REMAIN IN HOTEL.

2. ACCORDING TO MRS. BENTLEY, AN OPERA SINGER WHO
IS TOURING YUGOSLAVIA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES BY
CAR, MISS WATERMAN BROUGHT IN HER LUGGAGE AND MAILED
SOME 250 LETTER IN SERBO-CROATIAN WHICH HAD BEEN
GIVEN TO HER BY DRAGISA KASHIKOVIC (PHONETIC), AN
ALLEGED AMCIT WHO WORKS FOR NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHED IN CHICAGO BY EMIGRE ORGANIZATION SERBIAN
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NATIONAL DEFENSE (SRPSKA NARODNA OBDRANA). POLICE

TOLD MRS. BENTLEY THAT LETTER CALLS FOR ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT TITO. MRS. BENTLEY DISCLAIMS KNOWLEDGE OF CONTENTS OF LETTER AND DISAVOWS ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISTRIBUTION.

3. MISS WATERMAN ALSO CLAIMS SHE UNAWARE OF LETTER'S CONTENTS AND HAD BEEN TOLD BY HER FRIEND KASHIKOVIC THAT IT WAS TREATISE OF HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT U.S. AND YUGOSLAVIA, AND SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT ADDRESSEES WERE KASHIKOVIC'S ARTIST AND INTELLECTUAL FRIENDS. POLICE TOLD HER THAT MAILING LIST LOOKED LIKE IT HAD BEEN COMPILED FROM A "WHO'S WHO" ON YUGOSLAVIA.

4. IN FIRST CONTACT, CONOFF ADVISED THEM RETAIN ATTORNEY IN EVENT CHARGES FILED. ALSO CONTACTED CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FSFA) WHO INITIALLY UNAWARE OF DETENTION, BUT LATER ASKED CONOFF TO COME TO FSFA FOR URGENT MEETING. NOVI SAD POLICE HAD INFORMED FSFA THAT INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY, AND APPEARED THAT CHARGES WOULD BE FILED. FSFA HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED WHAT ARTICLE OF CRIMINAL CODE WAS INVOLVED, BUT ONE OFFICIAL OPINED WOULD PROBABLY BE ARTICLE 118, PARA 3, SMUGGLING AND DISTRIBUTING HOSTILE PROPAGANDA WHICH CARRIES MINIMUM SENTENCE OF 3 YEARS.

5. FSFA OFFICIAL HAD ALSO HEARD INFORMALLY THAT LETTERS WERE ENTITLED "THE PARTY ACCUSES YOU AND THE PARTY TRIES YOU", WHICH IN EFFECT MEANS THERE IS NO JUSTICE IN YUGOSLAVIA. THIS SAME OFFICIAL WHO HAD SERVED IN YUGO CONGEN IN CHICAGO STATED THAT KASHIKOVIC IS CONSIDERED ONE OF GOY'S GREATEST ENEMIES IN U.S. AND INDEED HAD BEEN CHARGED BUT ACQUITTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN BOMBINGS OF YUGO EMB AND CONGEN IN U.S. IN 1967.

6. MRS. BENTLY ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY ELDERLY PARENTS AND YOUNGER DAUGHTER AND SHE UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET ABOUT THEIR WELFARE AND HER REPUTATION. SHE HAS CALLED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HUSBAND IN U.S. AND EXPECTS HE WILL ELICIT CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT. MISS WATERMAN ALSO PLANNING CALL ATTORNEY BROTHER IN NEW YORK, SO DEPT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVE INQUIRIES.

7. CONOFF WILL VISIT NOVI SAD EVENING OF FEB 11 TO PERSONALLY INFORM LADIES OF SERIOUS CHARGE WHICH THEY FACE, AND OFFER ASSISTANCE

TO RETAIN ATTORNEY. WILL INFORM DEPT OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.

8. COMMENT: DESPITE NAIVETE OF LADIES INVOLVED,
GIVEN REPORTED CONTENTS OF LETTER AND THEIR CONTACT
WITH KASHIKOVIC, GOY MAY TAKE THIS OCCASION
TO MAKE EXAMPLE OF THEM.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA00613
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750049-0689, D750050-0984
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750255/aaaabxel.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMCITS DETAINED, FACE CHARGES SUMMARY: TWO AMERICAN WOMEN HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN
TAGS: CASC, YO, FAA, (BENTLEY, GLORIA LIND), (WATERMAN, ANN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006